

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An immunological latex turbidimetry method for analyzing an antigen or antibody in a sample, comprising steps of:

(1) bringing a sample which may contain the antigen or antibody to be analyzed into contact with a protease-treated fragmented bovine serum albumin consisting essentially of ~~about 2 to 10~~ 2 to 9 fragments that reduce a non-specific reaction of latex particles; and

(2) bringing a mixture obtained in the above step (1) into contact with latex particles carrying bovine serum albumin and an antibody or antigen that specifically binds to the antigen or antibody to be assayed, and analyzing a turbidity caused by a latex agglutination reaction.

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (original): The immunological latex turbidimetry method according to claim 1 wherein the protease is a pepsin.

5. (original): The immunological latex turbidimetry method according to claim 1 wherein the antibody to be analyzed is an anti-streptolysin O antibody, and the antigen carried on the latex particles is a streptolysin O antigen.

6. (currently amended): An immunological latex turbidimetry reagent comprising (1) a first component containing a protease-treated fragmented bovine serum albumin consisting essentially of ~~about 2 to 10~~ 2 to 9 fragments, that reduce a non-specific reaction of latex particles, and (2) a second component containing latex particles carrying bovine serum albumin and an antibody or antigen that specifically binds to an antigen or antibody to be assayed.

7. (canceled).

8. (canceled).

9. (original): The immunological latex turbidimetry reagent according to claim 6 wherein the protease is a pepsin.

10. (original): The immunological latex turbidimetry reagent according to claim 6 wherein the antibody to be analyzed is an anti-streptolysin O antibody, and the antigen carried on the latex particles is a streptolysin O antigen.